

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of correlating an image with information associated with the image comprising:
identifying image metadata for the image, wherein the image metadata includes information associated with conditions at the time of image capture; and
searching one or more information sources using parameters in the image metadata to collect inference information from the information sources.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information;
and
adding the selected inference information to an image file for the image.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information;
and
adding the selected inference information to an inference metadata file linked to the image.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the image metadata includes parameters selected from the group consisting of:
time of image capture;
date of image capture;
location of image capture;
direction of image capture device during image capture; and
angle of image capture device during image capture.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the image metadata includes a latitude and longitude of the image capture device.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the image metadata includes location information generated by tracking multiple earth-orbiting satellites.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
printing the image, the image metadata, and selected inference information.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the inference information is selected from the group consisting of:

landmarks located near the image;
weather at the time of image capture;
information related to the location where the image was captured; and
objects that are within the field of view of the image capture device.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
searching a first database using the image metadata to identify the inference information;
and
searching a second database using the inference information to identify additional inference information.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of images taken over a period of time.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of images taken while the location of the image capture device was changing.

12. A system for correlating an image with inference information comprising:
means for receiving an image file including image data and image metadata; and
means for searching an information source using the image metadata to identify image inference information.

13. The system of claim 12
means for displaying the image inference information to a user;

means for receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information; and

means for adding the selected inference information to an image file for the image.

14. The system of claim 12

means for displaying the image inference information to a user;

means for receiving one or more inputs from the user identifying selected inference information; and

means for adding the selected inference information to an inference metadata file linked to the image.

15. The system of claim 12 wherein the image metadata includes parameters selected from the group consisting of:

time of image capture;

date of image capture;

location of image capture;

direction of image capture device during image capture; and

angle of image capture device during image capture.

16. The system of claim 12 wherein the conditions at the time of image capture include a latitude and longitude of the image capture device.

17. The system of claim 12 wherein the conditions at the time of image capture include location information generated by tracking multiple earth-orbiting satellites.

18. The system of claim 12 further comprising:

means for printing the image, the image metadata, and selected inference information.

19. The system of claim 12 wherein the inference information is selected from the group consisting of:

landmarks located near the image;

weather at the time of image capture;

information related to the location where the image was captured; and
objects that are within the field of view of the image capture device.

20. The system of claim 12 further comprising:
means for searching a first database using the image metadata to identify the inference
information; and
means for searching a second database using the inference information to identify
additional inference information.

21. The system of claim 12 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of
images taken over a period of time.

22. The system of claim 12 wherein said image metadata is associated with a series of
images taken while the location of the image capture device was changing.

23. A storage device for storing image file information comprising:
memory fields for storing image data representing pixels in a captured image;
memory fields for storing image metadata representing data associated with conditions at
the time that the image was captured; and
memory fields for storing inference metadata representing data that is generated by
searching information databases using at least a portion of the image metadata.

24. The storage device of claim 23 further comprising:
memory fields for storing a confidence factor relating to matched inference data and an
identify of a person supervising the match.